

THE LIONESS

VOL XLIV

MAY 1971

No. 2



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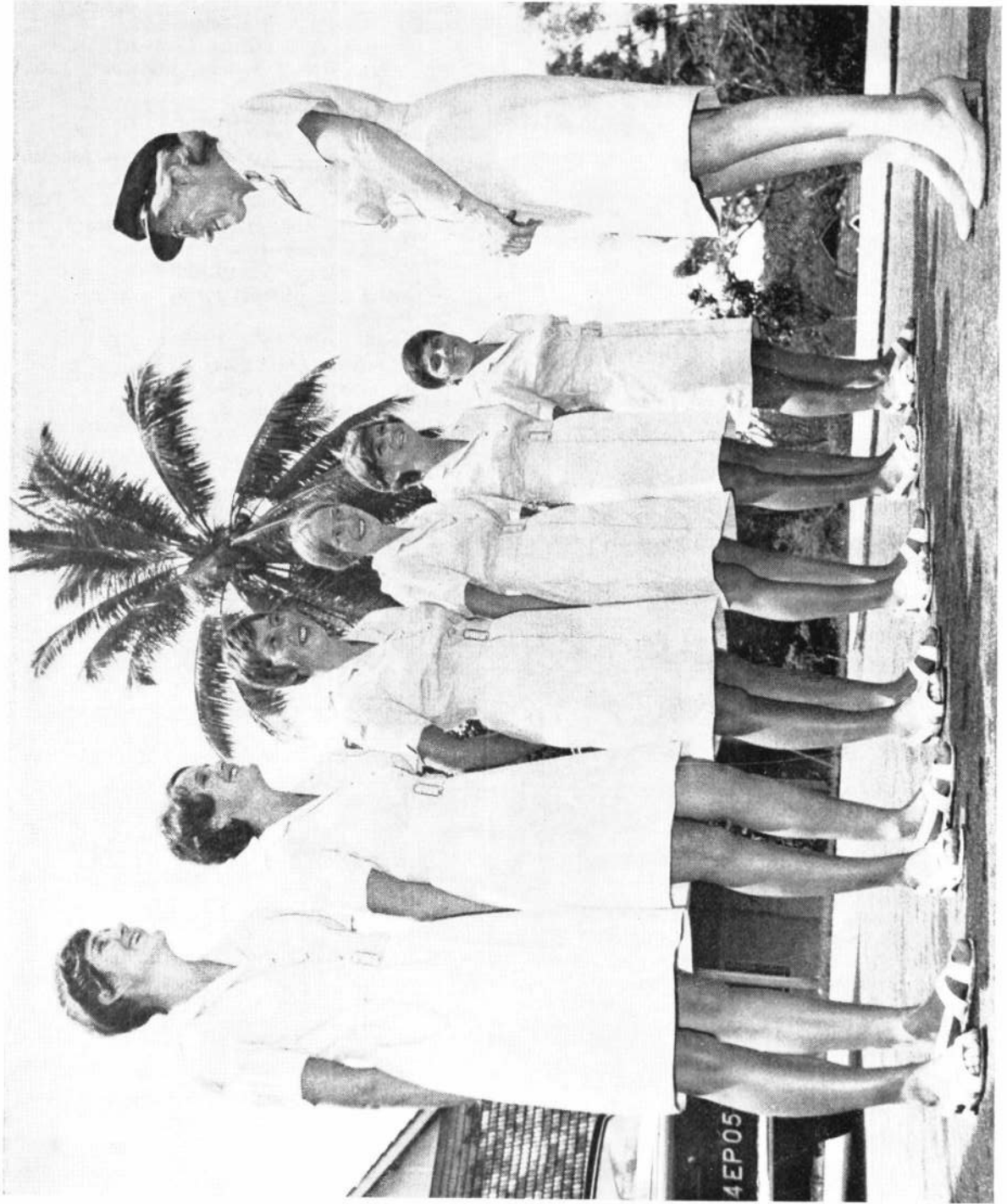
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Six happy smiling Smiths meet the Director Brigadier S. A. E. Heaney in Singapore

Photo by Public Relations



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Editorial

Greetings and good wishes were sent from the Director and All Ranks W.R.A.C. to Danmark's Lottekorps who celebrated their Silver Jubilee on 9th April, 1971. In Denmark this date is kept as Remembrance Day.

The Lottekorps was formed in 1945. They are a volunteer organisation, similar to our T. & A.V.R., working unpaid in the evenings and at weekends as well as attending Annual Camp. They pledge themselves to work for the Army, or Army Home Guard, in case of war and to undertake the necessary training in peace time. We welcome the ties between us and Danmark's Lottekorps including exchange visits and the kindness and hospitality shown by them to our members, both Regular and T.A. and send them our best wishes for the future.

Danmark's Lottekorps are not only the only people

who have been having a birthday lately. The tenth anniversary of the formation of Corps Headquarters W.R.A.C. coincided with the Association's Annual General Meeting and the party in April, so was well and truly celebrated.

Adventure training may not have been officially recognised for the A.T.S. but the visit to Greenland made by Mrs. D. A. Palmer, at the age of 70, shows that initiative and stamina are by no means confined to the younger generation. Mrs. Palmer was Treasurer of Bournemouth Branch for many years.

We particularly welcome contributions telling us what our ex-service members are doing NOW rather than reminiscences of their war time experiences, we are sure many of them still have as interesting a tale to tell as Mrs. Palmer whose account of her trip appears in this issue.

Visit to the Far East and our Allied Corps Down Under

When I set out on an unforgettable trip at the end of January I felt very privileged to be the first Director of the Women's Royal Army Corps to be able to visit our Allied Corps in New Zealand and Australia.

As those who saw my photographic efforts at the Scottish Re-Union in Ayr will have realised, I had a really wonderful time. I went first to New Zealand where I was met in Auckland by Major Melva Walker, Director N.Z.W.R.A.C., who will be remembered by those who met her during her all too short visit to U.K. in 1963 and by Major Jocelyn Hart, N.Z.W.R.A.C., who served in U.K. from 1964 to 1966, firstly as 2IC 12 Company Mill Hill, then with H.Q. C.W.R.A.C., East Lowland District (T.A.), The N.Z.W.R.A.C. numbers just over 200 regulars and I was delighted to be able to meet all the officers and a good number of their servicewomen. I was most impressed by the Passing Out Parade of recruits which I inspected at the N.Z.W.R.A.C. Depot at Burnham, outside Christchurch, and where I also met the officer cadets who were just starting their training. Major Walker had arranged that I saw as much of New Zealand as possible during my week's stay. It is a really lovely country, reminiscent of Scotland. I spent a memorable weekend at Mount Cook with the Colonel Commandant of the N.Z.W.R.A.C., Colonel Margaret Knights and Major Walker, and have regaled my friends since with the story of our perilous flight in a very small aircraft

over the Tasman Glacier. As well as meeting the serving officers and women, I was delighted to have the opportunity during my most interesting visits to various bases to meet many ex-service officers, including in Wellington, Mrs. Vida Jowett, the first Commandant when the war-time Corps was formed, Major Hardcastle, ex-Director, Mrs. Layton and Captain Moore, who is the sister of Major Moore who is still serving with the Army Legal Department. In Christchurch it was a great pleasure to meet Captain Montgomerie and Miss Sutton who served in the Women's Legion and was in France with Dame Helen Gwynne Vaughan.

The N.Z.W.R.A.C. Depot is a hatted complex in the large camp at Burnham and serving W.R.A.C. who read this article may be interested to hear that recruits do three weeks basic military training followed in the majority of trades by 'in unit' trade training, as most tradeswomen, e.g., clerks, are only accepted if they had civilian experience in the trade. Officer cadets do three months training, and like us, are not commissioned below the age of 19. Both recruit and officer training covers very much the same ground as ours. It may not be generally known that the N.Z.W.R.A.C. was formed in 1948, the year before we were formed. Our Alliance with the Corps dates from 1953. A Corps Museum had just been opened at Burnham and I am sure that they would welcome exhibits from readers of the Lioness.

At a formal Guest Night in the Officers' Mess at Burnham I was very honoured on behalf of our Corps, to present to D.N.Z.W.R.A.C. an inscribed silver quail. It was a wonderful evening with the N.Z.W.R.A.C. officers wearing the same mess and No. 1 dress as ourselves. Their summer working uniform is a delightful apple green shade shirtwaister dress. While at Burnham D.N.Z.W.R.A.C. presented two lovely books on New Zealand to the Corps which will soon be arriving by sea mail.

After an all too short stay in New Zealand I flew to Australia where once again I had a very interesting and enjoyable time. The distances in Australia are enormous and I therefore flew to Canberra, where I was met by Colonel Dawn Jackson, D.W.R.A.A.C., and to Melbourne. Colonel Jackson will be remembered by those of you who attended the Frimley Staff Course in 1954. I did however see some of the countryside as Lieutenant Colonel Peg Craske, A.D.W.R.A.A.C. at Southern Command, Melbourne, arranged for us to go to a Wild Life Park to see Kangaroos, Koala Bears and the other animals without which no visit to Australia would be complete.

While in Melbourne I was entertained by the serving officers and senior N.C.Os. of Southern Command and also had the pleasure of meeting Colonel Irving who was Honorary Colonel of the W.R.A.A.C. and who will be remembered for her visit to U.K. in 1960 when she presented a facsimile of the W.R.A.A.C. flag to our Corps. I then went on to Sydney where I visited the W.R.A.A.C. School at Mosman, a suburb of Sydney. It is situated on a wonderful site overlooking Sydney Harbour and I am sure that Captain Celia Hickman, W.R.A.C., who had just gone to Australia 'on exchange' will gaze with great enjoyment at the magnificent view. While at the W.R.A.A.C. School, I was honoured to present, on behalf of our Corps, an inscribed silver tray to D.W.R.A.A.C. I was also fortunate enough to be present at the W.R.A.A.C. Corps Day Parade in Victoria Barracks in Sydney. There were about 250 officers and servicewomen on Parade and it was most impressive. The Parade was commanded by O.C. W.R.A.A.C. School and included members of the C.M.F. (the equivalent of our T.A.).

While in Sydney I had the good fortune to be taken round Sydney Harbour in the well known Army yacht Balandra and was also entertained by Lady Cutler, Honorary Colonel of the W.R.A.A.C. Lady Cutler, who is the wife of the Governor of New South Wales, very kindly took Colonel Jackson and me to the Test Match in Sydney, a fact which has caused much jealousy when I mention it to my male friends!

I spent very little time in Canberra but as well as visiting Army Headquarters, Colonel Jackson very kindly took me to the Royal Military College Duntroon. In the lovely A.N.Z.A.C. Memorial Chapel there, our crest is carved on a pew opposite to that of the W.R.A.A.C.

The W.R.A.A.C. have a strength of some 900 regulars and 600 C.M.F., and recruits at the W.R.A.A.C. School do five weeks basic training and officer cadets do six months training. Again the substance of their training is very much the same as ours. W.R.A.A.C. wear a fawn coloured summer dress, rather thicker than our tropical dress; they have a bottle green No. 1 dress with patch pockets and a dark green lumber jacket as No. 2 dress. Their new hat is admired and I think that some of you will probably have seen it already, in the Far East or have met Captain Judy Munday who is 'on exchange' at 12 Company Mill Hill.

My visit to Australia, like that to New Zealand, was all too short, barely a week in each place, but I hope that perhaps at some future date I may visit both these lovely countries again. In the meantime I hope that Colonel Jackson and Major Walker will be able to visit us.

I said goodbye to Colonel Jackson, Lieutenant Colonel Kath Fowler, D.D.W.R.A.A.C., and Lieutenant Colonel Dulcie Verinder, A.D.W.R.A.A.C. Southern Command, in Sydney and flew via New Guinea to Hong Kong where I was able to meet all our officers and servicewomen who were in good heart. I then went on to Singapore where too I found the Corps in good heart. It is sad that 4 Company Singapore disbands towards the end of this year. Member of 4 Company presented me with a lovely painting to mark the last visit of a Director to their unit. It now has pride of place in my office.

And so, after more than a month away, having covered 30,000 miles and acquiring a nice deep suntan, I returned to the cold and wet U.K. I thoroughly enjoyed my trip and cannot adequately express my deep appreciation of all the many kindnesses that were shown to me and I hope that we will in due course be able to entertain the Directors of the N.Z.W.R.A.A.C. and W.R.A.A.C. and show them our Corps in the way that they have shown me theirs.

S.A.E.H.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

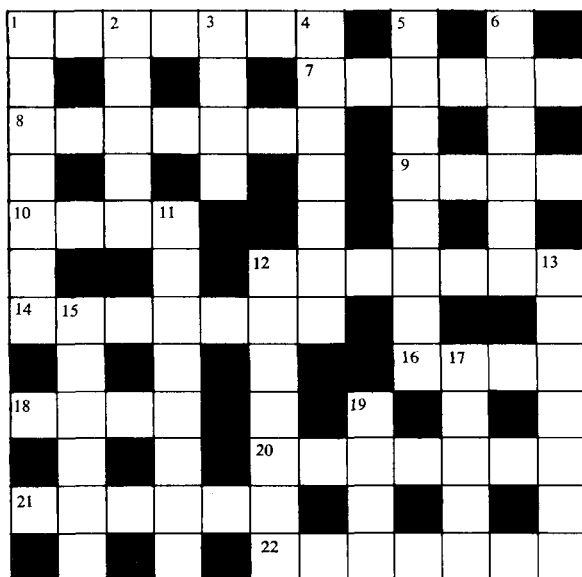
ACROSS

1. Exotic Fruit (7)
7. String of beads (6)
8. Set alight (8)
9. Is he terrible? (4)
10. "God Save The King". Will no man say.....?"
Richard II (4)
12. Naval? Could be one of ours (7)
14. U.S. Soldier in famous British Institution? Fair
enough (7)
16. Measure (4)
18. Baltic Port (4)
20. He is sick inside, this wrong doer (7)
21. Girl's name. (6)
22. Crystalline substance (7)

DOWN

1. Handmaiden (7)
2. Wild Animal (5)
3. Industrious Creatures (4)
4. Old Rain (Anagram) (7)
5. Gave help (8)
6. Wild Sheep (6)
11. Annoyance (8)
12. Conveyance (7)
13. Virtually Nothing (7)
15. One of the U.S.A. (6)
17. Attain (5)
19. Prune (4)

Puzzle submitted by Lt. Colonel R. J. King, O.B.E., J.P. (Ret'd.). The Solution will be found on the last page of this issue.



A Brief Visit to Eastern Greenland

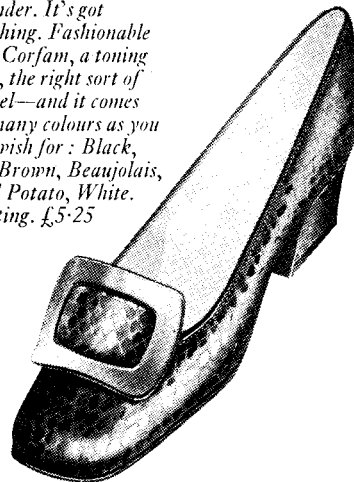
Mrs. D. A. Palmer

The idea of having a look at Greenland first occurred to me when I was booking a holiday to Iceland at my local travel agents. I read that there was a "One day sightseeing trip to Kulusuk" operated by the Icelandic Tourist Bureau, and I was able to book this at the same time.

When I reached Reykjavik in Iceland I called at the travel agents for the latest particulars. I was told that the

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first trip of the season the week before had been cancelled because of fog over the Greenland coast, and there was considerable doubt whether the plane would be able to go the following day.

On the day, I was told at my hotel that the flight on which I was booked was still most unlikely, but that I should report to Reyjavik airport in case news came through that the fog had lifted at Kulusuk. At the airport I found about eighty would-be passengers waiting, but the latest report was still unfavourable, so I joined the party and waited.

Most of the people there were from a cruise ship from Scandinavia, Copenhagen I think, but besides those from all the countries of Scandinavia, there were Germans and Swiss, as well as a few Americans visiting Iceland, one Englishman and myself. We waited for over an hour after our flight was due to take off, but at last we were told that it was on.

The plane was a DC 6 of ICELANDAIR and every seat was occupied. The flight was uneventful and enjoyable, lunch was served and afterwards the tour manager told us a little about what to expect when we landed, including advice to make use of the facilities on board as there would be nothing provided on land!

After about two hours flying we could see the sea was strewn with broken pack ice which also reached over the

barren rocks of the skerries, there was still patchy fog which so often blankets the airstrip, but we landed safely.

The island of Kulusuk adjoins the eastern coast of Greenland and is just south of the Arctic Circle. There one only finds a Radar Station run by the U.S.A.F., built in 1958; the airstrip is the only one on the eastern coast, and is not much better than a road, it is bordered by a bare hill of rock on one side, I noticed the port wing tip of the plane was not many yards from this rock, on the other side where were hummocks of ice and stone running down to a narrow strait full of small icebergs. I was told that planes fly in and out on radar beams.

As we trooped out from the plane it was raining steadily, this continued without a break, it was driven into our faces by a strong and chilly wind, the temperature being about 4C. The clouds were low and a more desolate scene I cannot imagine, with black mountains shedding their winter snows, and snow and slush everywhere.

The idea of the expedition was to walk to the small Eskimo village at Kap Dan, said to be only one hour's walk away despite the hilly nature of the terrain, but most of us found it took very much longer under the conditions we had to face!

We started off down an American-made track for a short distance that had been built up several feet. After that comparative civilized means of walking it was a case of crossing a large snowfield that was downhill for the outward trek, the snow was very wet but was still some two feet deep. A path had been cut across but this was now full of water; at the sight of this a few of the party turned back and really who could blame them? (I have a blurred snap that I took about here which one could almost believe had been taken of Capt. Scott's expedition to the south pole!). The next hazard was to walk through running water several inches deep, then we came across some glaciers looking none too likely to bear one's weight because they were melting underneath.

After this for a while walking was quite pleasant, there were even a few small plants showing tiny flower buds, however, in this pleasant spot there were three wooden crosses marking the place where people had been killed by Polar Bears, in the winter presumably! Further on, the way was strewn with varying sizes of boulders, and it was a case of scrambling on as best one could, I shall always be grateful to a young Dane who kindly gave me a helping hand, both then and on the return journey.

All the way we were accompanied by a number of Eskimo Children who had come from Kap Dan, they know that everyone would bring a bag of fruit, hard-boiled eggs and sweets for them, one had to remember to keep some for the toddlers in the village. The youngsters were well behaved, we also noticed that they were warmly clothed and wore good Wellingtons.

Kap Dan is said to be one of the most isolated settlements on earth, Eskimos in this part of Greenland were

unknown to Europeans until 1884. As we approached the village we could hear the huskies, doubtless shut up for our safety. There were just a few roaming about, probably the trusty ones, although they hardly inspired confidence. They were thin with ragged coats which is usual during the 'summer' months when they are not working. On our righthand we skirted the narrow icestrewn, inlet, the harbour for one or two powered boats, and some Kayaks drawn up near the waters' edge. Because of my age (70) I was one of the last to arrive.

Greenland belongs to Denmark and the Danish authorities have done much to improve conditions at Kap Dan. There were neat little pre-fabs that would have rockwool or fibre glass insulation, and some houses of the older turf-and-stone type. The children have regular elementary education from a resident Danish Schoolmaster. They looked healthy and happy, and have round Red-Indian-or-darker faces with sloe eyes and black hair. The adults are not tall but some of the youngsters showed signs of bigger development, doubtless due to better food. The men hunt seals, but these have been largely killed out, the authorities have encouraged them to take up fishing but with small success so far, clearly there was an economic problem here.

The village had no roads or paths between the scattered houses on several levels, and duck boards were none too safe. I saw there were the usual big wooden racks for drying skins as one sees in Norway, but nothing was very tidy, especially the many large tin drums lying about.

I was too late to be able to buy a "Tupilak", these are small carvings in whalebone, a form of indigenous Greenland art. But I was approached shyly by an Eskimo woman who had something clutched in her hand, it turned out to be a really lovely bead collar beautifully made, this bead work is another art practised in Greenland, I was delighted to buy it, the transaction was a little difficult but she seemed to be well satisfied with the Danish notes I gave her. Though the light was very poor I was able to take some snaps, one of an elderly woman who wore fancy sealskins boots half covered by a tartan skirt, and whose hair was done up in the old-style Eskimo topknot, naturally she was doing a good "trade".

We were all invited to their wooden church for a short service as it was a Sunday, the harmonium was played by an elderly resident. After we were in the church every crook and cranny was filled by the villagers and their children, the over-full congregation plus the heat from the red-hot Tortoise stove created quite a fug! Their singing, after the first shy moments was hearty if not particularly musical to European ears, the whole scene was unforgettable. After a collection we left to return to the plane—or so we thought.

The return slog consisted of all the hazards in reverse, and by the time I reached the plane my legs were telling me in no uncertain terms that they had done enough, and I was looking forward to sitting down for the return flight to Reykjavik. I was surprised to find it empty;

Kitchen Manoeuvres

not quite the place to take a tank and you should know! All day long you've been driving tanks, tackling machine gun emplacements, and crawling through mine fields—mind you, you did have a break at midday when you made the Colonel a cup of tea in his bunker.

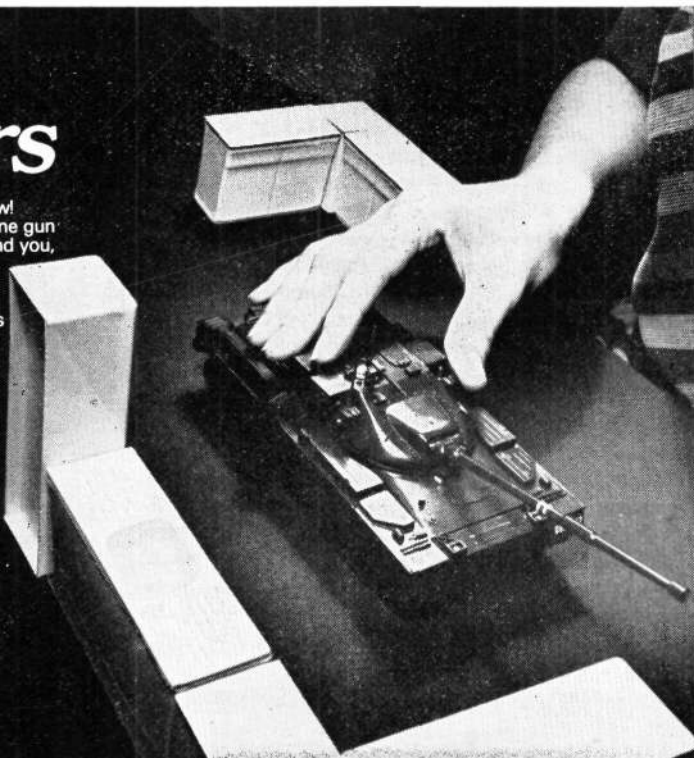
But now evening has come and you can become a woman again, out of that combat suit and heavy boots and back into nylons and lace, it's a wonderful feeling.

It's nice to enter a woman's kitchen as well, instead of that smelly army field canteen with its primus stoves and tea chest cupboards. How wise you were when you chose EASICLENE kitchen furniture, with its timeless good looks and hardwearing surfaces. It's as reassuring as if you were standing in the middle of the combined armed forces to know that if you ever want to add to your kitchen, EASICLENE's new range of SCENESTEALER units, with their new colours and features will compliment your already beautiful room.

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then an American airman came up the steps saying "You can't go in there lady, the plane has broken down, I have to take you where you will get some cawfee". By the time we reached his truck a few more stragglers had arrived. We were driven to a U.S.A.F. large wooden hut that was well insulated against the cold, there we joined all our party. The cabin crew from our plane gave us some brandy to help revive us, we were all tired and very, very wet. We were told that one engine had failed to go into reverse on landing and we should have to wait for a replacement. Engineers from Iceland had been flown over during the afternoon but they had been unable to do the repairs there and then, another DC 6 would be coming some time.

With true American hospitality the central heating in the hut was turned up to a high degree, and clothes of every description were spread over every available hot pipe and even on the large tanks in the boiler room. A record player was brought in which pleased the younger members of our party who danced with what energy they had left. There were various tables and folding chairs, sufficient for about half of us, some of the men sat on newspapers on the floor.

We had arrived at the hut about 7 o'clock in the evening. At about 9.30 we were invited across, in two batches, to the Station mess where we were given a most welcome dinner, it must have strained their resources to feed so

many. Queuing at the hatch reminded me of my time in the A.T.S.

Back at the hut again we thought we might have to make the best of a bad job for the night, some tried to sleep on the floor, personally I got some rest by sitting on a chair with my head on my arms on a table. However, about 2.15 a.m. we were told that another plane had arrived for us, and after a while we were taken to it in trucks, where we waited, getting some shelter from the rain under the wings before we boarded the plane. It was June so it did not get really dark.

The plane seemed to be loaded to capacity and we had one stretcher case. To keep the weight well forward for take off the cabin crew even took the metal food containers up forward. The surface of the airstrip looked very wet and seemed to have a lot of loose stones, I think many of us privately wondered whether we should become airborne in time! However, we had a smooth flight back to Reykjavik with some wonderful skyscapes with the early morning sun. Those of us who were awake were given some enjoyable snacks including a banana that was probably grown in the greenhouses in Iceland heated by the natural hot springs.

We reached Reykjavik at 5 o'clock in the morning, all very tired, but it was an experience of a lifetime. Luckily my hotel had been told when to expect me, and I appreciated having breakfast in bed that morning.

Unit News

Northern Ireland

Ken Dodd's Visit

If you had visited the W.R.A.C. members of Thiepval Barracks on Friday 4th December you would have seen a bunch of smart, bright-eyed, eager girls who were a credit to the Corps! Perhaps there was a parade or O.C.'s Inspection, but NO, Ken Dodd, on a visit to Ireland, had especially requested to meet some of the girls in their sitting room before lunch! For this great event, the first time a male civilian had passed through the doors of the W.R.A.C. Block for a social occasion, the sitting room had already been decorated for Christmas with a delightfully feminine touch.

After his grand entry into the room it was surprising that these normally eloquent, riotous, gay, cheerful girls became quite SHY! However, the odd jokes and friendly remark from Ken Dodd and his super puppet Diddyman "EVAN" soon brought back their confidence! 'Evan' being a Welsh Diddyman, had come along primarily to visit the Royal Regiment of Wales who are pounding the streets of Belfast, but he certainly made friends easily with us as you can see from the picture.

Ken chatted and joked with all the girls before he was



Looking for a Leprechaun?
The Diddyman himself in Northern Ireland

taken to the Officers Mess for a delicious lunch cooked by Private Eileen Dickens and served by several excited stewardesses.

Apart from the pleasure of having Ken Dodd it would seem that we are quite lucky with our free entertainment for Dickie Henderson is putting on a show for the Soldiers and W.R.A.C. in the Gymnasium next week!

Ducks to the Water

During the evening of September 11th a small party of us set off for a Camping and Sailing weekend on Owl Island which is a small island in the middle of Lough Erne. Our party consisted of the following; Lt. Jane Dyer, L/Cpl. Nerys Owen, Pte. Margaret Bird, Pte. Carol Hartley, Pte. Kathy Burnham and Pte. Taffy Jones.

We were very fortunate for some members of 26 Squadron RCT had kindly given up their weekend to help teach us to sail and to generally look after the boats and equipment.

When we arrived on the banks of Lough Erne during the dead of night we were met by two R.C.T. subalterns who each helmed a boat to convey us and our luggage to Owl Island. After a few mishaps we found ourselves sailing smoothly into the harbour of 'our' island—and what a glorious sight we beheld. A super fire was burning merrily, our tents were erected and the camp beds made, and to crown it all we were handed hot soup followed by steak and kidney pud! After a little sing-song we retired to bed for a good nights sleep to prepare ourselves for a hectic day the following morning.

Six bleary-eyed girls fell out of their camp beds to greet the dawn and after a substantial breakfast cooked by themselves they nervously awaited instructions from the experienced sailors. Ptes. Bird and Burnham VOL-UNTEERED to go for a sail in the GP14 with an R.C.T. Helmsman. The less adventurous ones took a ride in the fishing boat which had an outboard motor and thoroughly explored the beautiful lough, they even did some fishing as all the Mod Cons were supplied! The rest of us tried our hand at a larger sailing boat which had three berths and an enormous outboard motor. The latter seemed to be by far the safest way of "sailing" as one always had an alternative method of getting along if the wind got too blowy or died.

Things were going quite smoothly until we noticed that Ptes. Bird and Burnham had not been seen for sometime. Those of us on the 'big' boat hastily sailed away around the corner where, lo and behold, there they were sitting looking very bedraggled in the back of a fishing boat that had come to their rescue! We took them onto our boat and heard the dramatic story of their mishap after we had been stripped of our dry clothing! All in all they decided that it was 'good experience' and that one learns by ones mistakes! After a drying out session they were both keen to go out again but it was decided that perhaps a trip in the fishing boat might be more suitable.

It was surprising how much was learnt during that day about what not to do when attempting to sail a GP 14! Everybody had a go on each of the boats and gleaned a lot of useful information about sailing. We even had a very impressive display from one of the R.C.T. subalterns on how to handle a GP 14, single handed, in very rough water—most spectacular!

Unfortunately Sunday was spent cleaning all the equipment we had borrowed and generally packing up as we had a long trek back to Lisburn ahead of us. We left 'our' island, very sadly, in the heavily laden fishing boat and said goodbye to the R.C.T. Pte. Hartley showed promise as a helmsman as she steered us back to the shore where we all helped to stow the boat away for a rest before next Spring.

'D' Company W.R.A.C. 16 Battalion R.A.O.C.

Visits to the R.A.F.

During the last few months, members of 'D' Company W.R.A.C., 16 Bn R.A.O.C. have been on a variety of visits and tours, and for two of the most interesting they were guests of the R.A.F.

One Wednesday in September two officers and ten junior ranks were invited to spend the day at R.A.F. Brize Norton. On arrival they were met by a W.R.A.F. Warrant Officer who was to be their guide for the day. First she took them to the coffee lounge where they talked to air stewardesses. These girls who had amassed many flying hours certainly made army girls envious with stories of their travels, but they did emphasize the hard work involved and also the havoc their careers played with their social lives!

The next place of call was one of the many gigantic hangers where they went on an inspection of the interiors of a couple of the aircraft. After this they visited the Junior Ranks Club which was very impressive, with excellent facilities for sports, discotheques, concerts and dances (often to famous groups) to name just a few events on the agenda.

After lunch they went to the departure lounge where they learnt that they were to be taken on a test flight in a VC 10. Before getting into the aircraft they found it a little unnerving to have to fill cards in giving personal particulars and next of kin. As it was the first time that the majority had been up they were a little apprehensive but the take-off was so smooth that they hardly realized they were in the air. For the next four hours they flew over Scotland, Wales, Cornwall and Bristol where they spotted Concorde being taken from its hanger. A few times during the flight the pilot took the plane into a dive and gave everyone the sensation of being at the fair on the Big Dipper. They also experienced a wide variety of weather with varying reactions!

A month later, one officer, one sergeant and ten junior ranks went to R.A.F. Abingdon. This visit included a tour around the No. 1 Parachute Training School and

members of the party had a chance to try out the training equipment. The braver ones jumped from the 'Fan-Trainer', much to the delight of all the others and one girl allowed herself to be fitted into the trappings of a main and an emergency parachute. She looked very impressive but admitted that all this equipment was too heavy.

After lunch the visitors were given a short lecture about Abingdon and then shown around a gigantic hangar. They inspected from cockpit to tail a freight plane that was in for repair.

Lastly the W.R.A.F. quarters were visited, and in the very attractive lounge members of the two Women's Services exchanged stories of their work and life in their own Service.

Both visits were absolutely fascinating and contained a good mixture of interest and excitement, and it was unanimously agreed that the R.A.F. were wonderful hosts.

8 CPCCD RE

1970 saw the advent of a new W.R.A.C. unit in Dusseldorf. Previously there had been a few clerks and postal workers here but they had always been administered by 29 Company. The onslaught was led by W.O.II Doig who was faced with the massive job of creating peace and tranquillity out of utter chaos. She succeeded admirably and the unit was in full swing with all the ground work completed by the time Lt. Gwyn arrived to take over command in late September.

February dawned with the unit working flat out for our Fitness for Role inspection on the 3rd. Brigadier G. E. Bavin, Commander Rhine Area, was the inspecting officer and completed his tour by presenting the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal to W.O.II Doig and W.O.I. Roberts R.E., who were lent moral support, on parade, by all the officers and senior ranks—in the pouring rain! However, the occasion gave us an excellent excuse to celebrate well into the afternoon.

Since our formation the emphasis appears to be on marriage. Everyone apparently following the example set by our O.C. We have had seven weddings to date with another five taking place before June (not bad when you consider our strength is only twenty-five!). The highlight was a double wedding on 27th February when Privates Page and Petherick married Sappers Batchelor and Gwyther, all members of 8 C.P.C.C.D., at Christ-church here in Dusseldorf.

We are kept on our toes by a continuous stream of Senior Officers visiting Rhine Area. These include the C. in C., the E. in C., and the C.G.S. Now we are eagerly awaiting D.W.R.A.C.'S visit in May. Unfortunately W.O.II Doig will not be with us on this occasion as she is posted back to U.K. on the 28th April to take over as R.S.M. 10 Company. However, we wish her every success in her new appointment.

16 SIGNAL REGIMENT

Exercise White Lady

This annual exercise provides skiing for women stationed in BAOR. This year, despite poor snow conditions, the scheme appears to have been as successful as ever.

Pte. Janet Lake, 16 Signal Regt; winner of the Michell Cup, writes:—

"Fourteen of us set off on 8th January in high spirits, for two weeks skiing. Our first week was spent at Lermoos in the Austrian Tyrol. We took part in the ski classes with enthusiasm and became friends with Max our weatherbeaten instructor, whose favourite phrase was "Bend ze knees".

Our second week was at Oberjoch in Bavaria where we shared our guesthouse with some of the British Olympic Ski Team. Again we had ski instruction and practised a

lot on our own.

At the end of the week we had a race for the Michell Cup which was presented to the best novice. Major Rowett, the ASA Secretary, presented the cups and then gave everyone a BAOR ski badge, donated by our veterans Miss Lively and Miss Wildgust. By the time we left on the 23 January, we were all sorry to go having had a terrific holiday with many falls in the course of our learning and making new friends and acquaintances".

Other results were:—

Macfie Cup (Army Championship)

1. Lt. P. Bradbury, W.R.A.C.
2. Maj. J. Temple, W.R.A.C.

Crosse Cup (BAOR Championship)

1. Maj. D. Paton, R.A.D.C.

For a report on the social side the uncontested authority is Cpl. Carol O'Nians of Rheindahlen Provost Coy.

"I have just spent the most marvellous two weeks on the BAOR skiing course and championships.



Instructor Gunther describes the Race Course to Cpl. Carol O'Nians, Lt. Gill Platt, L/Cpl. Ann Thornton and Pte. Janet Lake.
Photo by Public Relations B.A.O.R.

We were accommodated in a really good hotel at Lermoos. Austrian food which, on arriving back at one's unit one can appreciate this wonderful Austrian food. The nights were spent listening to and watching the Tyrol folk dancers with their knee slapping and their yodelling.

For skiing Lermoos is ideal and you have the best instruction possible; very dishy instructors, enough said!

At Oberjoch we were accommodated in a typical gasthof, in the nearby village of Hinderlang. Each morning we would make a journey up a windy road through fir trees covered in snow. At the top one had a panoramic view of the mountains. Again, the nights were spent to the full, in gasthofs or dancing in the cellar bars.

I really enjoyed the skiing course. It is a course every girl should try to take. I for one will be returning to those lovely villages in the Tyrol!.

To those skiers who will be retiring from the Corps this year, Lt.-Col. Michell, Lt. Bradbury, W.O.I Lively and W.O.II Wildgust, many thanks for your help and the best of luck in the future.

CYPRUS

Coffee with the Prime Minister

Pictured here with the Prime Minister is Major Brenda Godin, W.R.A.C., D.A.D. W.R.A.C. Headquarters NEARELF, on the occasion of Mr. Heath's visit to Cyprus en route to the Commonwealth Conference in Singapore in January.



The Prime Minister with Major Brenda Godin in Cyprus
Photo by Public Relations NEARELF

After inspecting a Guard of Honour at the Joint Headquarters, he saw a Signals Squadron at work, and watched a demonstration by the resident Infantry Battalion, 1 P.W.O., when two members of the W.R.A.C. acted as searchers at a road block.

He then visited the Sovereign Club for coffee to meet members of the Services and their wives, and members of civilian organizations. People were split into groups of eight and Major Godin led the H.Q. NEARELF group, and introduced them to the Prime Minister. The group consisted of a male officer of the Headquarters, the Garrison Sergeant Major and his wife, a Corporal from the Counter Intelligence Company and his wife, a Royal Engineer Corporal and a W.R.A.C. Corporal. Another member of the W.R.A.C. was included in the Royal Signals Group.

The Prime Minister chatted to each group for about five minutes, and stayed at the Club together just over an hour before flying to Nicosia to lunch with President Makarios. The remainder of his party stayed at Episkopi, and attended a lunch party given by the G.O.C. to which Major Godin was invited.

R.A.O.C. TRAINING CENTRE, BLACKDOWN

Ex-Yeovil personnel from 6 Training Regt. R.C.T. and W.R.A.C. Clerical Training Branch may be interested to know that the W.R.A.C. Company Regimental Depot R.A.O.C. moved from their temporary accommodation in the Duchess of Kent Barracks, Aldershot, into the new Blackdown Barracks, Deepcut, on 27 Mar 71. The W.R.A.C. Junior rank quarters accommodate 135 permanent staff and students and are within short distance of the Alma Restaurant (dining room), the Junior Ranks Club and other amenities. The senior ranks live nearby in the Headquarters R.A.O.C. Sergeants Mess and the W.R.A.C. officers in the recently refurbished Headquarters R.O.A.C. Officers Mess, in South Minden Barracks.

Capt. K. R. O'Shea commands the W.R.A.C. Company with 2 Lt. P. Darnell as 2IC. Capt. O'Shea leaves the Army in June of this year and is to be succeeded by Capt. A. K. Brown, ex FARELF. WO2 K. Prior is the C.S.M.

There is one officer post (SO3/SD) on the Commanders Staff at Headquarters Training Centre filled by Major M. G. Fahy and two other Warrant Officer posts filled by W.R.A.C. WO1 S. Hartley, WOIC Mechanical Documentation Cell and WO2 L. Dawson, Instructor Clerical Training.

D.W.R.A.C., Brig. S. A. E. Heaney, visited the Training Centre on 23 Mar 71, accompanied by A.D.W.R.A.C. South East District, Lt.-Col. P. Norman. In the course of her visit, D.W.R.A.C. saw W.R.A.C. students in training and later toured the new accommodation.

We are naturally very pleased now to be an integral part of the R.A.O.C. Training Centre at Deepcut. However we would like to record our thanks to the O.C. 10 Company W.R.A.C. Aldershot, and her staff who have so ably looked after the barrack housekeeping for the R.A.O.C. girls since March, 69.

Branch News

AYR. Our winter session began with eight of our members travelling to Glasgow to join the Glasgow Branch in a visit to the Film 'Paint Your Wagon'.

The opening meeting in October took the form of a most interesting talk by a member of the Department of Agriculture, Auchincubre, on the care of pot plants.

Our branch were hostesses at the Scottish Area meeting held in October. In November a "Crazy Night" was held. Orders for Christmas Cards in aid of the Mentally Handicapped Association were taken at this meeting. An ex Provost of Ayr, Mr. W. S. Lanham entertained us with a splendid talk on the history of "Auld Ayr". Most of us learned a great deal about our town.

Our annual dinner in January was as usual a great success and thoroughly enjoyed by all. We were joined by a large contingent from the Glasgow Branch. In February the Rev. Colin MacKenzie enthralled us with a talk on "Scottish Folk Lore"! Fifty members and friends visited the Ayr Amateur Opera's production of *Kiss Me Kate*.

The A.G.M. was held in March followed by a light hearted Quiz game.

BRADFORD. The following Officers have been elected for 1971. President Mrs. G. Armitage, Vice Presidents Mrs. E. M. Slack and Mrs. E. Lumb, Chairman Mrs. K. Harrison, Vice Chairman Miss I. Weston, B.E.M. Hon. Treasurer Mrs. N. Houldsworth, Hon. Secretary Mrs. E. M. Suttle.

It was with regret that we accepted the resignation of Miss Monica Bradley as Chairman, and also as a member of our Branch. Although she formed a successful Branch at Harrogate she always regarded Bradford as her parent Branch and was a most loyal member for 20 years, travelling from Harrogate in all kinds of weather and often not arriving home until midnight. Mrs. Suttle asked for our appreciation of her loyalty and valuable assistance to Bradford Branch to be recorded and this was unanimously agreed by her many friends and comrades.

Since our last report we have had a varied interesting programme. In August we had a party, in September the Deputy M.O.H. from Bradford gave us a most interesting and enlightening talk on the drug problem.

In October we were guests of Leeds Branch, who provided wonderful hospitality. Mrs. Cameron their Chairman gave a demonstration of flower arrangements and presented one of her efforts to Mrs. Suttle, who had served with Mrs. Cameron then 'Dot Ireland' in 1941/42 as C.S.M.'s at 10th Divisional H.Q. Sand Hutton, York which was later used as a H.Q. for 'Monty'.

Branch members were well represented at the Northern Area Re-Union and also at the Bradford Festival of Remembrance. Our Standard party and several members attended the Battle of Britain Parade and also the

Bradford Civic Remembrance Parade to the Cenotaph Mrs. Wilson one of our members and also the Standard Bearer organised the Bradford British Legion Poppy Day which was most successful. Many of our members are also members of the British Legion and helped in their various districts with poppy day collections.

Members enjoyed a very successful Dinner at Cleckheaton, and in January had their usual party which we hold as near January, 13th as possible as this was the date of the birthday of our beloved late President Miss A. C. L. Gummersall. Quite a number of our members live out of the district and are unable to attend meetings but keep in touch with them at birthdays and Christmas. We regret that our Vice Presidents Mrs. Slack and Mrs. Lumb are not enjoying very good health at present, also Mrs. Ross who lives near Hull, but the Hull Secretary Mrs. Evison very kindly keeps in touch with her.

The Secretary had a surprise telephone call from a former member Mrs. Kitty Baker who unfortunately is more or less house-bound because of Arthritis. We are pleased to have as members Mrs. Enid Cox and her friend Mrs. Hughes who lives in Sunderland also Mrs. Evans twin of our Treasurer.

We are always pleased to have news of our old friends particularly Hilda Warner from near Spalding who we once visited and enjoyed a wonderful Strawberry tea.

We had a Bring and Buy Sale in aid of the Northern Area Stall at the A.G.M. for the Princess Royal's Memorial Fund. Our membership stands around 50.

CHELTENHAM. A meeting was held at Broadway, Worcs in May, 1970 at the kind invitation of Miss Ayshford-Sandford a member of our Committee. It was a lovely evening, the garden was full of bulbs and spring flowers and with the stream running below and set in the fields away from all traffic and bustle it is a haven of peace. A succession of games and competitions was arranged which kept everyone happy and was followed by refreshments brought with us and coffee. The most enjoyable evening concluded with a short business meeting.

In July our Chairman, Miss Lowsley-Williams arranged with her nephew Major D. Lowsley-Williams, for us to go over his beautiful old house "Chavanage" at Tatbury. Chavanage is an Elizabethan Mansion dating from 1576, it was built and lived in by the Stephens family until early 1800 when it became part of the Westonbirt Estates and was bought in 1887 by Mr. Lowsley-Williams. It was occupied by the Roundheads during the Cromwellian reign when they fought and took Beverton Castle after a long siege. We were taken all over it by Major Lowsley-Williams who told us its history as we went round the house and the Chapel a very fascinating afternoon it proved to be. On a really glorious hot day it could not have been a more perfect time to see it. We were most grateful to Miss Lowsley-Williams and Major Lowsley-Williams for arranging such an exceptionally interesting and pleasant summer day out for us. From Chavanage we

went on to the home of Miss Lowsley-Williams and Mrs. Delcourt at Tetbury where we had tea in the garden still in the most glorious sun where we basked and took photographs for the second time that afternoon, finally pulling ourselves together for a short meeting to arrange of all things, the date of the Christmas Party!

October saw our usual Bring and Buy for Branch Funds which went off with great success and verve. Mrs. Carpenter again undertook to lay a wreath on the War Memorial on behalf of this Branch.

The Christmas Party was held on Dec. 10th in spite of, and undisturbed by any Power Cuts. We were very sorry not to see Lt. Col. M. S. F. Millington as our guest of honour. But in view of the difficulties of lighting and the fog, we felt she was wise. About 40 members came to this party and we were very pleased to welcome Mrs. S. Parkinson, Chief Commandant F.A.N.Y. as our Chief guest and also to see Miss N. Alexander who was so well known to many of us in the early days of the war and who we hope may become a member of the Branch.

Miss Ayshford-Sandford and Mrs. Blofield brought lovely Christmas decorations, and we all had torches and candles and two handsome candelabra in the centre of the table. The delicious cold supper was well up to standard and enjoyed by guests as well as members and some nice Raffle prizes were given. The Raffle resulted in a cheque for £83.0d. for the Benevolent Fund. Our President Miss Marshall spoke briefly thanking members, especially Miss Ayshford-Sandford and Miss Sheward, who both cooked and carved turkeys, Miss Hickling and Mrs. Moore who ran the Bar, the Committee who dealt with and served the coffee and all those who had contributed to a gay and cheerful evening and wished everyone a very Happy Christmas. Mrs. Parkinson also spoke for a few minutes and wished the Branch well. It is now five years since we decided to give up going to a hotel and to run this party ourselves and it is obviously so much enjoyed that we would not have it any other way and only hope to see more and more members present each succeeding year.

LONDON. Our meetings have continued during the winter and spring and we have had some enjoyable evenings. In November Mr. Eaton showed us his interesting colour slides of Japan, accompanied by appropriate music. In December we held our Annual General Meeting and a very enjoyable Christmas Party. In January we were entertained by the Acton Male Voice Choir. A week before D. Day we were shown some very instructive slides of the New Currency by Miss Curtis. Also in February Miss Martin showed us her beautiful slides of Venice, Greece and Tunisia. In March Sister Miles spoke to us of the work of the Church Army and also of the Eventide Homes. Later in the month a Crime Prevention Officer from Chelsea Police Station explained to us ways in which we can protect ourselves and our homes against theft, he also included a demonstration of safety locks and two very interesting films.

STAFFORD. We started this half year at our September meeting with a get-together with our new members and our usual very good spread supplied by each member attending made it a jolly, enjoyable evening. We also had a successful jumble sale during the month.

We spent our October meeting discussing future programmes as we had a visit to the Stafford Newsletter works which could only be on a Thursday evening. Sixteen members toured in two groups and were most impressed from the start of collecting news, through the blocks and setting up of fascinating machines and finally the gigantic rollers where we saw the completed edition roll off, literally into our hands, we were all given a copy on the spot. We were also given a 'cuppa' out of a machine, not the printing machine!

Early in November, 21 members enjoyed a wonderful evening at our President's lovely home. Having been welcomed with sherry and a get together chat, we were invited to partake of a most marvellous spread, needless to say slimming diets were forgotten completely. We were then entertained by colour films of their very exciting Safari in East Africa. The close-ups of the animals made us feel we were actually there. We were able to join the family in colour on their island off the Irish coast, all very beautiful and some wonderful scenery. A most interesting and enjoyable evening very much appreciated by all members. Our grateful thanks being expressed by the delivery of flowers next morning.

One of our members managed to get the services of 'Rene and Dorothy' to give us a talk and demonstration of Christmas table decorations. All members appreciated the seasonal touch and were amazed at the transformation of every day things to such works of art. Several table pieces were given to us to raffle. The successful members were highly delighted and the proceeds of the raffle covered the ladies' expenses, so altogether a very interesting and instructional evening. We were able to make our usual Christmas donation to 'Link' and the W.R.A.C. Benevolent Fund.

Instead of a meeting in December, 19 members went off to Rugeley by coach, just in case of slippery roads and fog, and all thoroughly enjoyed an extremely good meal at the Cedar Tree Hotel, a very good start to the festivities. For our January meeting we were able to get the manager of a local bank to give us a final brush-up on decimal currency. The £3 of copper coins brought for us to see was bought by the Secretary and put out in 2/- lots of mixed coins for members to line up and buy their first 'new pence'. The Secretary was ½p out at the end of the operation! All was well at the next meeting, a very honest member brought back the wayward ½p having received too much for her 2/-.

We had our very popular Speaker in February to speak on Staffordshire. As it was so near the proposals for the reorganisation of the City boundaries, we were given a most interesting talk on how Stafford would be affected by the changes.

We had a jumble sale in March, not quite as good as usual, we feel our regular customers were being very cautious of the decimal coins. We are very happy to welcome Mrs. Clulee to the branch, having moved from London to Longdon, near Rugeley.

WIMBLEDON. We opened up in September, after the summer recess, with a 'get together' which always seems to be popular as members can chat to their hearts content without interruption!

We held our Annual Dinner in October as usual but this year we had a change of venue and returned to an old favourite, i.e. the Spread Eagle at Epsom, where we are able to reserve a room to ourselves which is always an advantage. We had an excellent dinner and were delighted to have Dame Mary Railton with us. We much appreciate her making the journey from Wiltshire to attend our dinner, it is indeed good of her.

In November we had our Annual General Meeting at which the following Officers were re-elected, there being no other nominations:—

Chairman:	Miss A. K. Gregson
Hon. Secretary:	Miss I. J. Moorshead
Hon. Treasurer:	Miss M. Frith
Social Secretary:	Mrs. R. Greenshields

We had our Christmas Party in December which proved to be a very jolly evening with the usual quota of ingenious games our Social Secretary always seems able to produce. Once again we were happy to have our President, Dame Mary Railton, with us.

We had our Beetle Drive in January which was the usual uproarious success! and in February a very enjoyable evening of transparencies projected by Pearl Whitfield who took us on a very interesting business trip she had made in the U.S.A. last summer.

Here and There

The Star and Garter—Mrs. Maude Mackenzie of London Branch writes:—

'On Wednesday February, 10th H.M. The Queen opened the new Physiotherapy Department including a Hydrotherapy Pool which had been built at a cost of £60,000. I was delighted to receive an invitation for the ceremony. It was a beautiful sunny day, and her Majesty looked young and springlike in an apricot coloured coat. She spoke with such sympathy about the objects of the Home and how pleased she felt to be there to open these new departments and hoped the men would benefit from this new treatment. All the arrangements were excellent and the B.B.C. had fitted a wonderful service of closed circuit television so that we sat comfortably in our chairs and watched the Queen as she visited many rooms and shook hands with well over 100 disabled men.

After the Queen had signed the Visitors Book and departed, Tea was served and we all had an opportunity of seeing the Pool and the very modern departments.

There is a wonderful atmosphere of help and friendship, and I always feel so thankful that those who have given so much are being now so well looked after for the rest of their lives.'

British Legion Housing Association

The British Legion has formed a Housing Association to provide self contained flatlets for elderly couples or retired members of either sex living on their own. Each flatlet is centrally heated and has a separate bathroom and kitchen. Guest rooms and other communal facilities are provided and there is also a resident warden. Nine projects have already been completed, another twenty two should be finished before the end of 1971 and others are in the planning stage.

Local authorities support the projects with building grants so the flats are allotted by an independent committee who give priority to active independent elderly residents, from within the local community, who have served with the Armed Forces of the Crown, or to their dependants.

Members who are interested in obtaining a tenancy of one of these flats are advised to get in touch with their nearest Branch of the British Legion. In the event of difficulty particulars can be obtained from the British Legion Housing Association Ltd., Pall Mall, London, S.W.1.

Mrs. E. B. McLaran writes from Canada to say how much they are looking forward to the visit of Her Majesty The Queen. Mrs. McLaran is a member of the Victoria Ex-Service Women's Branch of the Royal Canadian Legion which recently presented a colour TV set to the Womens Ward of the Veterans Hospital. There are a number of other ex-A.T.S. in the Branch.

Mrs. Suttle of Bradford Branch tells us that she has received a nostalgic letter from a Miss Jessie Binns who some members will remember as the 'post corporal' at No. 11 A.T.S. T.C. and Chilwell Group. She was a member of Bradford Branch soon after her demob in 1948 but due to domestic reasons she had to resign and lost touch.

She lost both her parents and is now entirely on her own and her own ill health forced her to an early retirement from a Government Establishment after 15 years. She says she often sits and ponders on her service days which she regarded as a worthwhile experience. After Lancaster she was posted to the Royal Scots Depot at Glencorse which later moved to Honiton Devon. She was there until it disbanded when she was posted to Chilwell Group.

She quotes many names including J/Cmdr. Fiona McCrae, Sgt. Binnie, Cpls. May Whelan, Ann Weightman (Tailoress) Sybil Nichol (Chiropodist). From Chilwell she remembers J/Cmdr Rosleigh, J/Cmdr Audrey Revar (French Lady) and Miss Broadhead (Adjutant)

who she says came from Bradford. Also mentioned are Mavis Blaker, Tess Woodsford, Betty Pope, Cpl. Fell and Sgt. Ratcliffe.

She would love to hear from any former comrades. Her address is: Miss Jessie Binns, 8, Dove Street, Saltaire, Shipley, Yorkshire.

Pte. Millie Tent

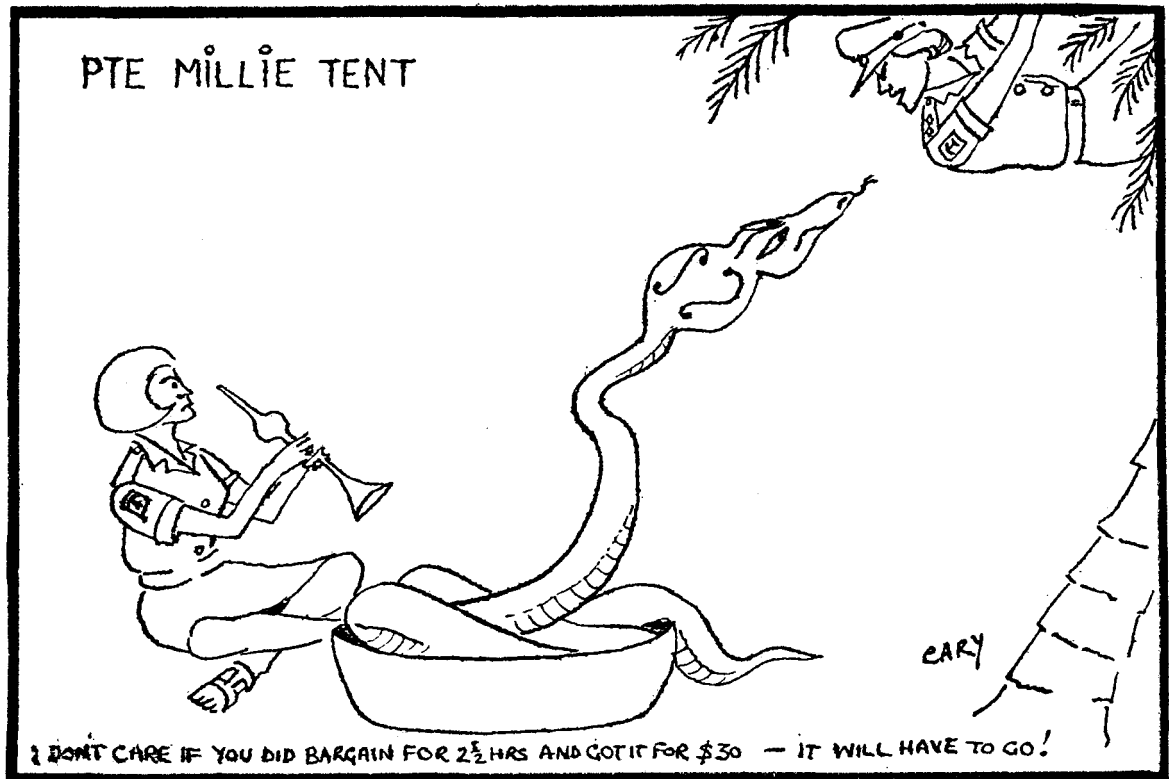
Having been asked to relate how Pte. Millie Tent came to be created, I now begin to wonder if I really did create her. On reflection it appears as if she had always been about and merely chose me as the unsuspected victim who could depict her in some of her more diabolical moments.

She took over when I was in Northern Ireland. One afternoon, while I was idly doodling, she made her first

appearance on paper. From that moment onwards ideas came fairly easily, after all, when surrounded by such ideal material in the W.R.A.C. it seems a great shame to let it go to waste!

Millie is the sort of girl who is a heroine to all her equals but the despair of all those senior to her. She has the (not common) knack of twisting any senior officer (male) round her little finger, while her senior ladies view her with an increasing mixture of alarm and despondency. A very versatile young lady, she attended a sister school of St. Trinians from which she was expelled at the age of eight. The reason for her rapid expulsion was never made clear but it is suspected that she was caught smoking cigars during prep!

Millie's career in the W.R.A.C. has been (and will continue to be) chequered, to say the least. She is very much a "W.R.A.C. of all trades". However, she enjoys the "Life of Action" in the W.R.A.C. and fully intends to sign on for twenty-two years!



Looking Back

By

Miss B. W. Nutt

I was recently reminded of an experience I had during my A.T.S. service, and wonder whether anyone else remembers being helped in the same way. I was in an Ack-Ack Battery stationed at Dalmeny (near the Forth Bridge about 10 miles from Edinburgh). I had been on leave in January 1943, to my home in the Midlands, and while on the train returning to camp, it started snowing. The farther north we went, the slower the train seemed to travel, although it was not snowing very much. I eventually arrived at Princess Street Station, Edinburgh around mid-night. My connection was from Waverley Station, and although I knew the last train had gone, I made my way along Princess Street, as there was a Y.M.C.A. Canteen at Waverley Station.

I can still picture Princess Street on that occasion, with untrodden snow on the pavements about an inch deep. It was a beautiful night, perhaps there was a full moon as I remember how bright it was, although of course it was the time of the blackout. I arrived safely at Waverley Station and after checking the time of the first train, made my way to the Y.M.C.A., but was horrified to be pushed out, and told that no girls were allowed in the Canteen after 11 p.m. but that there was another Canteen to go to. I followed the instructions and found the Canteen, which I'd never noticed before, and am ashamed to say I don't remember who ran it, maybe it was the Church of Scotland.

There was a lady waiting inside who asked if I was stranded in Edinburgh, and promptly whisked me away to a big house in the old part of Edinburgh, not far from the Station, going towards the Castle. I remember walking along a long entry or hallway, and then up some stairs, and into a room where there were dozens of camp beds higgledy-piggledy on the floor, and W.R.N.S., W.A.A.F., and A.T.S. lying on them. The lady in charge asked a few questions including the time of my train, and allocated a bed to me. I seem to remember having a lovely hot cup of cocoa, which was most welcome. I took off my shoes and uniform and lay down in my shirt and underclothes. I suppose there was a blanket, but maybe I used my greatcoat. I dozed off and on, as girls kept on arriving and then were called early to catch their trains. I was duly woken up, but I can't remember whether I had a cup of tea or anything to eat, or whether I had to pay anything, but I know I arrived back in camp in time for breakfast, and remember the look of surprise on the Guard's face.

I wonder whether anyone reading this article knows anything about the organisation which helped me that night. I sincerely hope I did say 'thank you' at the time, as I certainly was most grateful, since it wouldn't have

been very pleasant sitting in a canteen for six or more hours.

There are lots of such good people around who are never heard about unless one personally needs their help.

Re-Unions

Scottish Re-Union 1971

What a wonderful occasion the Scottish Re-Union held in the Eglinton Rooms, Ayr on Saturday 3rd. April, turned out to be. Despite the postal strike which seemed at times to present insurmountable difficulties the organising committee mustered over 300 ex-service Q.M.A.A.C., A.T.S. and W.R.A.C. and serving W.R.A.C. from all corners of Scotland and England to enjoy what everyone agreed was the best Re-Union ever.

Mrs. J. O. MacAndrew, Chairman, set the mood of informality for the evenings proceedings in her opening remarks by recalling some of her own lighter experiences in the A.T.S.

Provost McLean welcomed the gathering to Ayr, our Vice President, Col. L. M. Davies, C.B.E. brought to the Reunion the greetings of the Association and Maj. Gen. F.C.C. Graham, C.B., D.S.O., D.C. spoke of his happy association with the W.R.A.C. T.A.

This year, the Director, instead of giving her usual report on the state of the Corps showed transparencies which she had taken on her recent visit to the Far East and these were most interesting and much appreciated by the large audience. Miss Abbey gave the vote of thanks.

After supper the Re-Union Secretary read extracts from a few of the many letters she had received following some excellent publicity in the national press. These were from ex-serving members who wanted to know if there were any attending the Re-Union with whom they had served.

An innovation this year was the setting up of meeting points for various categories—Ack Ack, Signals, R.A.-O.C., Q.M.A.A.C. etc and this proved most successful. There was a special cheer for the seven members of the Q.M.A.A.C. who attended, especially Mrs. Sim who, though 80 years old, had travelled over 200 miles to be there.

There was a display by the Ayr Branch of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society and the evening finished with Auld Lang Syne and the National Anthem.

It was very gratifying to welcome so many new faces to the Re-Union this year, we ran out of enrolment forms and had to take a list of names of people wanting to join the Association.

As the company dispersed to go their various ways everyone agreed it had been a wonderful evening and those who were attending for the first time were anxious to know where and when the next Re-Union would be held!

NORTHERN AREA RE-UNION

The Northern Area Re-Union will be held on Saturday October, 9th, 1971 from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. in the Crescent Rooms, Royal Baths Assembly Rooms, Harrogate.

Guest speaker will be Lt. Colonel R. J. King, Chairman of Council.

Further particulars will be given in a later edition.

Retirements

Lt. Colonel E. E. Michell

Lt. Colonel Betty Michell, who has recently retired after 32 years service, joined the 1st Glos. Coy A.T.S. in February, 1939 and was commissioned in May, 1941. During the war she served in various units and formations in the U.K. Mostly in Scotland. She ended her A.T.S. career with the rank of Chief Commander and holding the appointment of 2i/c Medical Services and A.T.S. (later W.R.A.C.) Records during the difficult period of the change over to the Regular Corps.

Like many other of similar age and seniority Lt. Colonel Michell reverted to the rank of Major and subsequently attended the W.R.A.C. Staff College in 1951. Two appointments as D.A.A.G. followed, one at the War Office and one with G.H.Q. M.E.L.F., return to the U.K. brought a return to regimental duty as 2i/c W.R.A.C. Depot and O.C. 314 (Scottish Command) Bn. W.R.A.C.

She was again promoted to Lt. Colonel in 1962. Since then she has had two appointments as A.D.-W.R.A.C. Northern Command broken by 3 years in BAOR. Colonel Michell always took a keen interest in outdoor activities and sports, particularly swimming and skiing.

We understand that she eventually intends to settle in the Cotswolds but has plans to start her retirement with a trip round the world and will shortly be setting off, for the first stage, on a slow boat to Singapore. We wish her a "Bon Voyage" and look forward to hearing about her experiences in due course.

Lt.-Col. (Q.M.) W. D. Andrews, O.B.E.

Lt. Colonel Andrews, 'Andy' to her many friends throughout the Army, began her Army Career as a batwoman in the A.T.S. in 1940. She worked her way up through the ranks to become Regimental Sergeant Major and then to a Quarter Master's Commission in 1955.

Much of her Service life has been spent overseas, but her posting to Cyprus in 1958, during one of the Islands most troublesome times, was her first posting overseas as an Officer. Andy's tour in Cyprus will perhaps best

be remembered for the prodigious pantomimes she produced each Christmas and took 'on the road' with suitable armoured escorts, to cheer isolated Units in the more remote parts of the Island.

Her next Overseas posting took her to the Cameron Highlands in Malaya as Administrative Officer at the Change of Air Station. There she became an always welcoming and cheerful hostess to countless numbers of weary servicemen and women and families from Malaya, Singapore and Borneo.

Lt. Colonel Andrews last six years have been spent at her own Corps Centre at Guildford and there she was promoted the first ever W.R.A.C. Lieutenant Col. Quartermaster. As a fitting tribute to her achievements during her thirty one years service she was awarded the O.B.E. in the 1971 New Years Honours List.

Andy retires in May. We hope she will keep in touch with her many friends. She takes with her our grateful thanks for the past and our warmest good wishes for the future.

Officers' Postings

(1 Jan—31 Mar. 71)

- Lt. Col. C. H. Leese, L.O.W.R.A.C., M.O.D.
- Maj. H. G. Meechie, D.A.A.G. H.Q. West Midland Dist.
- Maj. G. A. Sergeant, M.V.E.E., Chertsey.
- Maj. M. B. Latham, D.A.Q.M.G. (Ops./Maint.) H.Q.L.F. Hong Kong
- Maj. E. L. Ross, 8 Sig. Regt.
- Maj. B. A. Rooney, O.C. Officer Cadet Wing W.R.A.C. College.
- Maj. M. M. Power, D.A.Q.M.G. (Wks./Accn.) H.Q. Southern Command.
- A/Maj. F. E. Greaves, 10 Sig. Regt.
- Capt. M. S. Wing, O.C. W.R.A.C. H.Q. Western Command.
- Capt. M. Mackenzie, 10 Coy W.R.A.C.
- Capt. S. D. Macey, 16 Sig. Regt.
- Capt. P. M. Crowe, 10 Sig. Regt.
- Capt. (Q.M.), T. M. Carroll, Depot Regt., R.C.T.
- Capt. C. V. Hickman, H.Q. W.R.A.C. School, Sydney, Australia.
- A/Capt. I. A. Purton, A.C.O. (W.S.), Sheffield.
- A/Capt. D. F. Moxon, W.R.A.C. College.
- A/Capt. T. J. Cruickshank, O.C. W.R.A.C., R.A.C. Centre (Gunnery School)
- A/Capt. E. W. Jones, W.R.A.C. College.
- A/Capt. M. J. Craggs, W.S.L.O. Scotland.
- A/Capt. P. A. Tinsley, S.C. "A" H.Q. Hameln Grn.
- A/Capt. L. Hancock, W.R.A.C. Centre.
- A/Capt. D. F. Rumsey, 9 Sig. Regt.
- A/Capt. W. M. Tyler, W.S.L.O. Reading.
- Lt. J. E. Hole, 9 Sig. Regt.
- Lt. S. F. Bowden, 4 Coy W.R.A.C.
- Lt. E. A. Irvine, 4 Comms. Unit.
- 2/Lt. R. E. R. Henderson, Royal School of Artillery.
- 2/Lt. B. M. Rowbottom, S.E.M.E. Bordon.
- 2/Lt. C. M. Lewis, H.Q. & Trg. Centre R.A.P.C.
- 2/Lt. L. D. R. Watkin, 12 Coy W.R.A.C.
- 2/Lt. M. T. McKenzie, W.R.A.C. Centre.
- 2/Lt. C. M. Crawford, 8 Sig. Regt.
- 2/Lt. R. M. Lawrence, 11 Sig. Regt.
- 2/Lt. K. H. E. Meachem, 16 Sig. Regt.
- 2/Lt. M. R. King, 10 Coy W.R.A.C.
- 2/Lt. E. J. Womack, 12 Coy W.R.A.C.
- 2/Lt. C. M. Kimber, R.A.E.C. Centre.

Warrant Officers' Postings

(1 Jan—31 Mar 71)

- W/358234 W.O.I.S. Wolstenholme, 29 Coy W.R.A.C. B.A.O.R.
- W/377717 W.O.I.A. M. Kitchen, 12 Coy W.R.A.C.
- W/369828 W.O.I.D. Jones, 10 Coy W.R.A.C.
- W/354631 W.O.I.G. K. M. Lively, Southern Command, Pt. Pool.
- W/385386 A/W.O.I.R. E. Southern, Staff of H.E. The Governor and C. in C. Gibraltar.

W/418082 A/W.O.I.S. A. Collinson, 29 Coy W.R.A.C., B.A.O.R.
 W/319449 W.O.II V. Bantock, W.R.A.C Centre.
 W/346764 W.O.II E. A. Germain, The Royal School of Artillery,
 Larkhill.
 W/404410 A/W.O.II J. P. Clark, 16 Signal Regt. B.A.O.R.
 W/361820 W.O.II W. J. Parker-Wade, 4 Comms. Unit.
 W/175440 A/W.O.II K. M. Prior, Regtl. Depot, R.A.O.C.
 W/196229 A/W.O.II M. J. O'Connell, R.A.E.C. Centre.

London Gazette

PROMOTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS REGULAR ARMY

Lt. Colonel Major C. H. Leese.
 Major Capts. H. G. Meechie, B. F. G. Moore.
 2/Lieutenants. C. A. Howell, E. D. Cameron.

SPECIAL REGULAR COMMISSIONS

2/Lieutenants P. J. Darnell, G. Travers.
 2/Lieutenant on probation. S. M. Arnold.

SHORT SERVICE COMMISSIONS

2/Lieutenants. F. Ablett, P. J. Rigby.

RETIREMENTS

REGULAR ARMY

Capt. F. A. F. Chandler
 2/Lieutenant. M. M. Harper.

SHORT SERVICE COMMISSIONS

Captain. J. M. V. Howell.
 Lieutenant. H. Woodhams.

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Leather Wallets	£1.05p	3p
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Tributes

Mrs. I. O. Holliss, T.D.

M.E.N. writes:—'One evening in September, 1938, I found myself sitting in front of Mrs. Holliss' desk at the Drill Hall, Slough, Bucks, having gone to see if I 'would like' to join the A.T.S. I didn't dare say 'No' when asked to sign the enrolment form. That was at the beginning of what was to be a jolly good Company, 14 Bucks Coy. A.T.S. with Mrs. Holliss our Company Commander. She controlled the Company in those early days with a very firm hand and gained the loyalty and respect of all ranks, a happier Company of 'girls' you couldn't have found. Nothing was too much trouble for our Company Commander, for our welfare and comfort, even at the T.A. Camp at Tidworth Pennings in June 1939 when it rained the whole fortnight, and our first billets on being called up in September, 1939. I am sure all the members of the 14th Bucks will feel very sad, as I was to read of the passing of our first Company Commander and will wish to join me in extending sympathies to Elizabeth her daughter.'

Miss C. E. Swettenham

W.M.G. writes:—'Catherine Swettenham, whose death was announced in the February Lioness, joined the A.T.S. in 1938 and helped to form the Company in Co. Armagh. Her knowledge of guiding was a great assistance and she quickly showed her ability in the Army. In 1939 when mobilization started she became the Company Commander in Armagh. When a small Training Centre was formed in Ballymena, Catherine Swettenham took on the training of recruits and administration of the Depot.

Finally she was promoted to Group Commander No. 1 Group N.I.D. After the War, and some years later she became President of the W.R.A.C. Association, Ulster Branch. Catherine was a charming person, beneath her quiet and self-effacing exterior she hid a keen sense of humour and firm character. She was a loyal and delightful friend and will be very much missed in Northern Ireland.

MEMORIAL SERVICE

A Memorial Service for the late Miss Catherine Swettenham was held in the Cathedral Church of St. Patrick, Armagh on 21st February, 1971. The service was conducted by the Dean of Armagh, the Very Reverend H. A. Lillie and the address was given by Mrs. M. J. Greeves, M.B.E., J.P. It was attended by members of the Girl Guides Association from all over Ulster and the W.R.A.C. Association was also represented.

A Memorial Fund for Catherine Swettenham has been opened and it is proposed to use it for Gosford Guide

House in which she was keenly interested. Contributions should be sent to:—Mrs. H. A. White, Orange Hill, Tandragee, Portadown.

Obituary

Miss J. Begg, C.B.E.

We regret to announce the death of Miss Jean Begg who was Director of War Services for the Y.W.C.A. firstly in the Middle East and later in North Africa, India, Ceylon, Burma, and Japan. Miss Begg became one of the best known of all Y.W.C.A. and was held in great affection by thousands of ex-service men and women.

A Memorial Service was held in the Crypt Chapel of St. Pauls Cathedral on 21st April, 1971.

Mrs. B. Evans

K.B. writes:—"It is with deep regret that I report the death of my very dear friend from Abbeville days 'Trixie Morgan' Mrs. Beatrice Evans of Thornton Heath. We were in the same hut and worked at Base Headquarters".

Miss E. Potter

Salisbury Branch regret to announce the death of Miss Emily Potter. During her service she was concerned with catering, at one time being responsible for feeding rehabilitated Prisoners of War.

She was well known in Salisbury where she was catering officer at the College of St. Michael Sarum.

A memorial service in Salisbury Cathedral was well attended by members of the Branch, the staff of the College, ex colleagues of Westonbirt School, and by her associates of the College orchestra and Salisbury Musical Society.

Miss D. E. Thomas

Dulcie Elaine Thomas of 55, Pentreguinea Road, St. Thomas, Swansea died on January 16th aged 49 after a very long illness, being bedridden for over 20 years.

She always had a smile and took an interest in the Canterbury, Kent branch of the Association who made her a postal member several years ago.

Dulcie served as a storewoman with ack-ack during the war and her number was W/233530

Miss E. K. Clarke

We regret to announce the death of Miss Elizabeth Clarke, a member of Leicester/Nottingham Branch who served in the A.T.S. from 1939-45 with the rank of J. Comd.

Branch Directory

List of Branch Secretaries

Aberdeen: Miss H. T. Donaldson, 30, Burnie Boozle Crescent, Aberdeen AB1 8NP.

Aldershot: Miss K. N. Edwards, M.B.E., T.D., J.P., 16, Stovolds Way, Aldershot, Hants.

Ayrshire: Mrs. H. J. Lunn, 20, Hay Hill, Ayr.

Bath: Mrs. J. Ferguson, 161, Lime Grove Gardens, Pulteney Road, Bath.

Belfast: Mrs. P. Neilly, 382, Merville Garden Village, Newtonabbey, Co. Antrim, N. Ireland.

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Edinburgh: Miss P. E. Yeates, 20, Comely Bank Grove, Edinburgh EH4 1BU.

Glasgow: Miss D. A. Newton, 101, Mitre Road, Glasgow, W.4.

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Ilford: Miss E. Holmes, 40, Shepherds Hill, Harold Wood, Essex.

Leeds: Mrs. M. Watson, 7, St. Chad's Rise, Leeds. 6.

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London: Miss M. Slocombe, 48, Gorefield House, Alpha Place, Kilburn, N.W.6.

Lonsdale: Mrs. D. M. Grant, Brunton House, Scotforth, Lancaster.

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Southampton: Mrs. B. E. Keating, 2, Kendal Close, Chandlersford, Eastleigh, Hants.
Staffordshire North: Mrs. L. Rhodes, 27, Dartmouth Avenue, Newcastle, Staffs.
Stafford: Miss M. E. Norcott, "Greensleeves", 77, Salisbury Road, Stafford.
Weymouth: Mrs. M. Purvis, 16, Langdon Avenue, Weymouth, Dorset.
Ulster: Mrs. M. Wallace, 'Hillcrest', Greenbank Avenue, Donaghadee, Co. Down, N. Ireland.
Wimbledon: Miss I. J. Moorshead, T.D., 26, Woodland Way, Tolworth, Surbiton, Surrey.
Wolverhampton: Mrs. M. Beeston, 60, Campion House, Heath Town, Wolverhampton, Staffs.

W.R.A.C. Association

Names of Members of Council

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(Deputy Controller Commandant of the W.R.A.C.)

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Vice Chairman of Council

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A.D.C.

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Colonel J. L. Rankin, W.R.A.C.

Commandant W.R.A.C. College

Colonel R. M. Green, W.R.A.C.

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Mrs. N. Giles

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Colonel D. H. I. Wilson, O.B.E., (Ret'd).

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Lt.-Col. L. E. Holt (Ret'd).

Northern: Lt.-Colonel R. M. Engel, W.R.A.C.

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Chairman Headquarter Area

Mrs. A. J. Stevenson

Ex. Director W.R.A.C.

(for 3 years w.e.f. September, 1970)

Brigadier The Hon. Dame Mary Anderson, D.B.E.

General Secretary

Major E. B. Dixon W.R.A.C. (Ret'd).

Crossword Puzzle Solution

ACROSS

- | | |
|--------------|-------------|
| 1. Avocado | 14. Logical |
| 7. Rosary | 16. Dram |
| 8. Ignited | 18. Riga |
| 9. Ivan | 20. Villain |
| 10. Amen | 21. Marcia |
| 12. Captain. | 22. Napthal |

DOWN

- | | |
|-------------|--------------|
| 1. Abigail | 11. Nuisance |
| 2. Ounce | 12. Caravan |
| 3. Ants | 13. Nominal |
| 4. Ordinal | 15. Oregon |
| 5. Assisted | 17. Reach |
| 6. Argali | 19. Clip |



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